

The Environmental Sustainicator

"a communicator of sustainable efforts"

EPA Region 4, RCRA Programs and Materials Management Section ~ A Newsletter on Regional Recycling and Material Management

Sustainable Business Day

On January 28, 2008, EPA Region 4 in conjunction with the Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagel, Pull-A-Part Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Marty Kogon, and Pull-A-Part Senior Vice President Steve Levetan participated in the Sustainable Business day plenary session held at the Georgia Capitol. For enrolling 11 facilities into the voluntary recognition program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) Russell Wright presented CFO Marty Kogon of Pull-A-Part with a plaque from the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP).

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House Resolution 1072 that was read and adopted on January 28, 2008 (web link only)

The Pull-A-Part program set a NPEP goal to recover and recycle approximately 30,000 switches aiding in the removal of 65 pounds of mercury from the 11 facilities by the end of 2008. The EPA also promoted electronics, commodities recycling, WasteWise and other voluntary programs to the legislative caucus and lobbyists. Please contact David Langston at (404)562-8478, langston.david @epa.gov for more information.



EPA Administrator Steve Johnson removes the onemillionth car switch.

One-Millionth Mercury Switch Event

The One-Millionth Automobile Mercury Switch Event was held at the automobile parts reseller, Pull-A-Part, in Conley, GA, on February 29th, 2008. Attending and speaking at the event was Stephen Johnson,

Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Susan Bodine, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), John Gilkeson, representing Environmental importance of recognizing the success of voluntary programs was emphasized by Administrator Johnson, Senator Chambliss and Senator Isakson.



Left to right: Deputy Regional Administrator Russell Wright, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation Deputy Associate Administrator Rick Otis, Regional Administrator Jimmy Palmer, Administrator Steve Johnson, Assistant Administrator of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Susan Bodine, Regional Chief of Staff Don Christy, Regional RCRA Division Director Alan Farmer, Regional RCRA Deputy Division Director Ken Lapierre, and Division Director of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Jim Berlow posed in front of a stack of cars waiting to be recycled.

Council of the States (ECOS), and Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss, Georgia Senators. Press kits were distributed, and photo opportunities were provided for those involved in the National Vehicle Manufacturing Switch Recycling Program and End of Life Vehicle Solutions (NVMSRP & ELVS). Representatives from Nucor Steel, IPSCO Steel, Ameristeel, and the Scrap Metal Association were present. Administrator Johnson pulled the ceremonial one-millionth switch in the presence of the media and numerous invitees. The

The collection of the millionth automotive switch highlights how the NVMSRP partnership is making progress toward reducing the amount of toxic mercury released into the air, water and land. The goal of the NVMSRP is to capture 80 to 90 percent of available vehicle mercury switches by 2017, when the program is scheduled to end.

Vehicles are the most recycled consumer goods in America. Each year, the steel industry recycles more than 14 million

tons of steel from retired vehicles, the equivalent of nearly 13.5 million new automobiles. As a result, the steel industry is the largest consumer of recycled materials in the world. Most vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life are dismantled, stripped, flattened, shredded and melted to make new steel. If mercury switches are not removed from retired vehicles by dismantlers, a significant amount of that mercury can be released into the environment through air emissions.

EPA estimates that about 8 tons per year of mercury is emitted from electric arc furnaces that melt scrap metal from retired cars, making them the fourth largest source of mercury air emissions. The total amount of mercury currently emitted annually in the U.S. is estimated to be 120 tons per year. Air emissions are considered the primary source of mercury that ultimately concentrates in fish as methylmercury and poses risks to human health and the environment through fish consumption.

Some vehicles manufactured prior to 2003 contain mercury switches. Recovering these switches is an easy, cost effective and energy efficient way to reduce mercury air emissions. Dismantlers can find and remove most switches within a few minutes. It costs far less per pound of mercury than emission controls and it supports many industries that produce and use scrap metal. Finally, it conserves energy and natural resources by promoting automotive steel recycling while reducing mercury contamination. Please contact David Langston at (404)562-8478, langston.david @epa.gov for more information.

Tennessee Recycling Coalition

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 staff attended the 19th Annual Tennessee Recycling Coalition (TRC) Conference held January 16 - 18, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel in Franklin,

TN. TRC is a nonprofit organization consisting of members that represent private business, nonprofit organizations, trade associations, educational institutions, individual citizens, and federal and state agencies and counties. Its mission is to promote the statewide adoption of waste reduction programs and recycling in Tennessee and to provide information, education, and partnering to address waste issues in the state. The annual conference is a forum to exchange information with national, state, local environmental agencies and other recycling organizations. It also provides recognition to those member organizations and individuals who exhibit excellence in recycling and waste minimization programs and initiatives. The presentation viewed at the conference, "Economic Impact of Recycling in Tennessee and the



Recycling benefits the economy through creating area jobs, retaining local employers, generating tax revenues, producing economic opportunities, and saving money.

Southeast," focused on the recycling industry need to access the materials currently being disposed, and how recycling benefits the economy through creating area jobs, retaining local employers, generating tax revenues, producing economic opportunities, and saving money. The Executive Director for the Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) was also a participant during the session. Please contact Audrey Baker at (404) 562-8483, baker.audrey@epa. gov for more information.

Rooms To Go Furniture Retailer Recycling Success

Rooms To Go, with facilities in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Alabama, and North Carolina is America's #1 independent furniture company with the nation's largest furniture inventory. Rooms To Go introduced the concept of displaying and packaging furniture in complete room settings. Their designers coordinate each room's colors, fabrics and accessories to the last detail, so customers don't have to. The approach affords customers a simplified shopping experience and increased savings when buying an entire room.

In addition to their impressive business model, Rooms To Go stands out as a leader in recycling, demonstrating that recycling can be quite lucrative. They began in 1992 collecting and recycling cardboard, expanding by 2005 to also plastic, wood, and foam.

The 2006 EPA solid waste report indicates that national recovery rates are 6 percent for plastic, 9 percent for wood, and 50 percent for cardboard. Rooms To Go by comparison recycles an astonishing 87 percent plastic, 80 percent wood, 99 percent of cardboard, and 99 percent of its foam. The result: Over the last 15 years, Rooms To Go has "saved" 96,000 tons of solid waste



Rooms To Go styrofoam blower, compactor and a pallet of styrofoam ready for reuse.

from ever hitting a landfill, and currently recycles 85 percent of their waste stream. The success does not end there.

In addition to the environmental benefits, Rooms To Go has accomplished, they have some impressive economic successes. In 2000, the company grossed over \$100,000 in cardboard income, and in the first year after the complete recycling system was implemented (2006), Rooms To Go realized a gross income of over \$1,000,000. Yes, that is a million, and they are not even in the recycling business. They sell furniture!

Going forward, Rooms To Go struggles to recycle it's approximately 50 tons/per month of pallet & pressboard-type mixed wood waste. EPA Region 4 will be working in coordination with Georgia Department of Environmental Protection (GA DEP) to recommend sources of recyclers. Most of their other Southeast facilities are near sources of wood mulch recyclers. While we will investigate this area, we would prefer to find a higher-value reuse (wood pulp, pallets, etc) for the wastes, other than mulch. They have also noted an interest in energy savings. Please contact, Rhonda Rollins at 404-562-8664, rollins.rhonda@epa.gov for more information.

Regional Environmental Priority Project Grants

EPA has selected a proposal from the University of Florida entitled "Management of Tomato Culls and Waste Water on Tomato Packinghouses," for Funding. The grant will

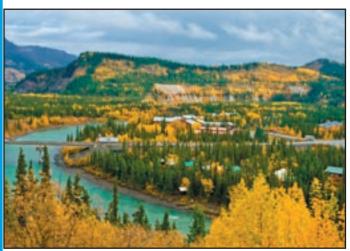


Tomato culls are used to develop compost and animal feed.

fund a study to develop an organic fertilizer (tomato compost) from the culls, while the wastewater will be reused on packinghouses. Anticipated outcomes from the project include: 1) the reduction of 149,626 to 399,003 tons of tomato culls per season (two seasons per year), 2) the development of tomato compost and use of culls as animal feed, 3) the characterization of wastewater from packinghouses for nutrients, metals, pesticides, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and test the scope of chemical amendments to remove these contaminates from the wastewater, 4) reuse 20 million gallons of wastewater per season on tomato packinghouses (two seasons), and 5) provide training, education, and outreach opportunities to county extension agents, and stakeholders to advance the adoption of best management practices in other tomato packinghouses in Florida and throughout the Southeast U.S. EPA anticipates this project to begin by July 2008. Please contact Thornell Cheeks, 404-562-8479, cheeks.thornell@epa.gov for more information.

Healthy Knoxville and Sustainable Growth

As a component of the Tennessee Performance Partnership Agreement negotiations, EPA Region 4 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) have been working towards a series of multimedia projects (which conceptually may include multimedia workshops) focused on establishing relationships with local environmental organizations, businesses, and agencies within a Tennessee priority watershed. The underlying premise is there are programs and resources in the



Scenic photo of the Kentucky landscape.

air, water, and waste arenas that will help local groups achieve their waste minimization and watershed protection goals. However, these resources are often unknown to local groups, and the connections between complementary programs are missing. By linking air, water, and waste state and federal programs (such as National Partners for Environmental Priorities, Wastewise, Greenscapes, etc.) to local organizations decision-makers, EPA and TDEC, the connection will provide better services and assistance to a larger community than could be reached with traditional outreach efforts. Through our efforts, we have learned more about Knoxville. It is apparent that there is a substantial business and community presence in the area, represented by local organizations, governmental officials, business leaders, a Knoxville metro area that is prosperous and yet unencumbered by wild growth.

On March 10, 2008, EPA Region 4 RCRA Programs Branch management met with a Knoxville, Tennessee grass roots organization, Eastern Tennessee Quality Growth (ETQG). The purpose of the visit was to define some of the common interests and see where EPA, TDEC and ETQG may jointly work on activities which will lead to waste reductions, waste minimization, watershed improvement, and a sustainable metropolitan area. ETQG has committed to provide data collected through their organization which will allow all parties to determine which projects we can jointly support in the upcoming summer months of 2008. Please contact David Langston at (404)562-8478, langston.david @epa.gov for more information

Yes! You Can Workshops

The Carolina Composting Council sponsored the final "Yes! You Can"- Compost and Naturescape integrated train-the-trainer workshops March 13-14, 2008 in Orlando, FL at the Reedy Creek Treatment Facility in association with Recycle Florida Today. The workshop took place at the Reedy Creek Improvement District which is part of Disney World, FL. The project is funded by EPA to organize and hold workshops to equip participants as trainers. The trainers will then educate others on how to recycle waste through composting, how to use the compost for environmentally sustainable landscap-



A citizens unloading yard waste to be used for compost.

ing, and how to replace toxic chemicals and reduce non-point pollution. Participants in the workshop included master gardeners, federal and state regulatory officials, and private industry executives seeking insight into organics recycling. The workshop included a tour of Disney's extensive food waste com-

posting operation. Workshops have previously been completed for the other seven Region 4 states. This workshop was the last of the train-the-trainer workshops funded by this grant. Please contact Thornell Cheeks, 404-562-8479, cheeks.thornell@epa.gov for more information.

Southeast Festivals and Events Conference

The 2008 Southeast Festivals and Events Conference was held in Greenville, South Carolina on February 18, 2008. It started off with remarks from Greenville's Major Knox White about the successful remodeling and repositioning of the downtown area. He spoke on his mission to revitalize the downtown area and make it the center of socialization for Greenville.

The breakout sessions were focused on helping event planners improve their events by reducing their cost, adding other resources, marketing their services, advertising upcoming events, acquiring outside partnerships, and greening their events.

EPA sponsored a breakout session entitled "Green Your Gig: Resources for Green Event Planning." The session consisted of seven speakers and lasted from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. It explored how festivals and events could reduce their environmental impact by implementing recycling programs, reducing

waste generated and incorporating green energy. Good feedback resulted from the session. Participates requested more time for questions. Other comments discussed were to add other topics like green supplies and for information more specific to individual locations. Overall participants enjoyed the session and requested the panel's presence at other conferences. Please contact Angela Bivens, 404-562-8623, bivens.angela@epa. gov for more information.



Greenville, SC downtown events and activities.

Municipal Government Toolkit

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and numerous partners are currently developing the Municipal Government Toolkit (MGTK). It will provide municipal recycling coordinators and elected officials with the materials they need to support recycling programs. The focus of the MGTK will be to help local government officials promote recycling and reuse. It is consist of webbased facts, useful information, sample legislation, guidance resources, and case studies surrounding the impacts of recycling in the Southeast. Development of MGTK will provide a key resource to elected officials and decision-makers, so they can easily identify the information needed to evaluate, support, and expand their waste reduction programs. Information on local recycling ordinances, waste reduction effects, climate change recycling, and other areas of interest will be included.

Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH), the contracted company working on the project, has uploaded a web beta test to facilitate review by EPA and their partners. The website focuses on three main aspects of recycling: Benefits of Recycling, Starting a Recycling Program, and Improving a Recycling Program. The web address to access the site is http://eparegion4.xservices.com . Please review the



Recycling promotes resource conservation, solid waste reduction and pollution prevention.

website, keeping in mind that the comments for the factsheets have not been incorporated. Send all comments by April 30th, focusing especially right now on the "Implementing" & "Improving" categories, until the factsheet section is updated. If you have any questions regarding this website, please contact Steve Smith 404-562-8501, Rhonda Rollins 404-562-8664 or Angela Bivens 404-562-8632.

Lifecycle Building Challenge

The Lifecycle Building Challenge 2 will be launched in Region 4 this year, with Region 9 (where the Challenge originated in 2007) providing guidance and assistance. Regions 2, 10, and Headquarters are also actively involved in making the Challenge even more exciting. The Lifecycle Building Challenge 2 (LBC2) is a web-based design competition open to building professionals—architects, designers, builders,

deconstruction experts, reuse professionals, engineers etc.—and students. The Challenge will launch in April and remain open through July, or perhaps a little later. Winners will be recognized at the EPA Region 4 Lifecycle Building Conference in November. Please visit the Challenge website at http://www.lifecyclebuilding.org/. Please contact Steve Smith, 404-562-8501, smith.steved@epa.gov for more information.

Market Analysis

A Market Analysis Task Order was awarded to Booz Allen Hamilton on March 10, 2008. The purpose of the task order is to develop a market analysis on recycling markets within the region and to make a comprehensive market analysis available to the Region 4 States, the public, elected officials, government officials, and related commercial entities. In addition to compiling region-wide data, a separate, more focused project to compile and analyze data for the City of Atlanta will be undertaken. The current task also includes the development of a comprehensive Region 4 Market Analysis Fact Sheet. The data will be compiled into a database, which will then be shared with Earth 911. The data will be incorporate with their searchable recycling tool at http:// earth911.org/. Please contact Steve Smith, 404-562-8501, smith.steved@epa.gov for more information.

Calendar of Events

When possible, EPA will list events, meetings and conventions which may be of interest to those groups or individuals interested in recycling, pollution prevention, waste minimization, energy, and material management. Sponsorship of the events may be EPA, States, or corporate with limitations on enrollment or attendance.

March 3- April 4, 2008 — Spring Recycling
Bin Grant Cycle, http://www.bingrant.org, Energy
Star Challenge, http://www.energystar.gov/index.
cfm?c=challenge.bus_challeng, Televisions Must
Meet New Requirements to Earn Energy Star, http://
www.energystar.gov/pdtv, Rechargeable Battery
Recycling Corporation (RBRC) Expands Efforts
With Sony To Encourage Consumer Participation In
Recycling Program, www.call2recycle.org

Mar 25-28, 2008 – Carolina Recycling Coalition 18th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Raleigh, NC, http://www.cra-recycle.org

Mar 31- Apr 3, 2008 – 2008 – Beneficial Use of Industrial Materials Conference, Denver, CO, http://www.beneficialusesummit.com/2008/index.html

Mar 30 - Apr 3, 2008 - 2008 - Ground Water Summit, Memphis, TN, www.ngwa.org/ 2008summit/index.aspx

April 2008 – EPA Green Building Squad will be offering luncheon seminars on greening your home.

April 05, 2008 – Green & Passive Solar Case Study & Design Lab, Pittsboro, NC, http://www.greenprostraining.com

April 5-6, 2008 – Solar Water & Space Heating, Boone, NC, http://wind.appstate.edu/workshops/workshops.php

Apr 6-8, 2008 – 2008 Waste-to-Fuels Conference & Trade Show, Orlando, FL, www.waste-to-fuels.org April 6-9, 2008 – 2008 Bama-Peach Conference, Pine Mountain, GA, http://www. gaswana.org/

April 6-10, 2008 – ISRI Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, http://www.isriconvention.org/2008/ Apr 7-8, 2008 – Developing and Investing Green: Creating Value through Sustainability, Charlotte, NC, www.uli.org/conferences

April 8-9, 2008 – 5th Annual NC Sustainable Energy Conference, Raleigh, NC, http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteCode=0511&siteCode=0511&eventDisp=EONCSEC08&subeventdisp=EONCSEC08&CFID=14367109&CFTOKEN=25783063&CFID=14367109&CFTOKEN=25783063

April 8-10, 2008 – GreenCoast 2008, Mobile, AL, http://www.greencoastonline.com

Apr 9-10, 2008 – GreenCoast Conference, Mobile, AL, http://www.smartcoast.org/green/index.php

Apr 10, 2008 – TRC Tennessee Recycling Coalition - Green Building and Recycling: Chattanooga, TN, http://www.trc-online.org/

April 12-20, 2008 – Sony Ericsson to Sponsor Cell Phone Take Back Event, Charleston, SC, As part of the "Recycle Your Cell Phone. It's an Easy Call Campaign," Sony Ericsson, an EPA Region 4 Plug-In to eCycling Partner will sponsor a cell phone collection at this event.

April 13-19, 2008 – National Environmental Education Week, http://www.eeweek.org/

April 14-16, 2008 – 24th Annual BioCycle West Coast Conference 2008, San Diego, CA, http://www.jgpress.com/conferences1/conferences1.html

April 16-18, 2008 – Design-Build in Transportation Conference, Louisville, KY, http://www.designbuildtransportation.com/

April 19 - 20, 2008 - Small Scale Wind Energy, Beech Mountain, NC, http://wind.appstate.edu/

workshops/workshops.php

Atlanta Zoo;

April 19 - 22, 2008 – Architecture 2030: BYOBlue, Nationwide, USA, http://www.byoblue.org April 19, 2008 – Keep Atlanta Beautiful,

April 26, 2008 – Glenwood Park, www. keepatlantabeautiful.com

Apr 21-22, 2008 — Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) - GRC 2008 Semi-Annual Training Meeting Recycling's Role in Sustainability, Atlanta, GA, http://www.georgiarecycles.org/connected/savethedate.pdf

April 22, 2008 – Earth Day, http://www.earthday.gov/

April 22-24, 2008 – New World Biomass Conference, Albuquerque, NM, http://www.newworldbiomass.com/

April 28 - May 2, 2008 — National Healthy Schools Day, Nationwide, - United States, http://www.healthyschools.org/nhs day.html

Apr 30 – May 2, 2008 – Tennessee Solid/ Hazardous Waste Conference. Gatlinburg, TN. www.state.tn.us/environment/swm/conference/

May 5-7, 2008 – Carpet America Recovery Effort Annual Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL, www.carpetrecovery.org

May 5-7, 2008 – Brownfields 2008- The National Brownfields Conference, Detroit, MI http://www.brownfields2008.org/en/index.aspx

May 5-8, 2008 – Joint Services Environmental Management Conference, Denver, CO, http://www.jsemconference.com/2008.index.htm

May 5-8, 2008 – Waste Expo 2008, Chicago, IL, May 6-9, 2008 – 11th National Mitigation & Ecosystem Banking Conference, Jacksonville, FL http://www.mitigationbankingconference.com

May 8, 2008 – Biofuels Markets Americas, Miami, FL, http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/general/event listings.html

May 11-15, 2008 — Waste-The Social Context 08, Edmonton, Canada, http://conference.ewmce.com/prothos/onware.x/conf/252/index.p?!=public=11973835471816=1=11026980&Conference=252

May 14-18, 2008 – Green Earth Expo, Orlando, FL, http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/events/#NIGP

May 12 – 16, 2008 – Governor's Hurricane Conference, Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Florida, http://www.flghc.org/

May 15, 2008 – Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) - GRC 3rd Annual Extreme Recycling Golf Tournament, Marietta, GA, http://www.grn.com/cgibin/exview.cgi?rw=01&w=60&item=LA801957 &st=L&affilid=100000

May 15 - 18, 2008 — Green Earth Expo 2008, Orlando, FL, http://www.globalgreenalliance.com

May 17-20, 2008 - Cast Expo 08, Atlanta, GA, http://www.castexpo.com/

May 19-23, 2008 – National Environmental Partnership Summit, Baltimore, MD, www. environmentalsummit.org/

May 19-21, 2008 – 16th Annual North American Waste-to-Energy Conference, Philadelphia, PA, http://nawtec.org/

May 22 - 23, 2008 — Photovoltaics with Sharp Solar, Boone, NC, http://wind.appstate.edu/workshops/workshops.php

May 27-30, 2008 – Household Hazardous Waste & Small Quantity Generator Workshop, Daytona Beach, FL, http://www.nahmma.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=9

May 29-31, 2008 – Faith and Environment Conference, Salisbury, NC, Catawba College Center for the Environment http://web.eenorthcarolina.org/

June 2-4, 2008 – 7th Annual Federal Environmental Symposium, 2008 Federal Electronics Challenge Award Ceremony, Bethesda, MD, http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/events.htm

"sustainability: a reduce, reuse, recycle way of living"

A Newsletter on Regional Recycling and Material Management

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June 3-6, 2008 – GreenBusiness Expo, Atlanta,
GA, http://www.greenbusinessworksexpo.net/
  June 4-6, 2008 – CIFAL Atlanta's Third Annual
International Water Forum, World Trade Center,
Atlanta, GA, http://www.cifalatlanta.org/workshops/
sustainability/waterforum08/water08 index.html
  June 5, 2008 – World Environment Day, www.
unep.org/wed/2008/english/
  June 17-20, 2008 - Small Business
Ombudsman/Small Business Environmental
Assistance Program National Conference,
Harrisburg, PA, http://www.sbeapconference.com/
  June 20 - 21, 2008 - Community-Scale
Biodiesel Production, Boone, NC, http://wind.
appstate.edu/workshops/workshops.php
  June 22-24, 2008 – Paper Recycling
& Trade Show, Rosemont, IL, http://
www.paperrecyclingconference.com/
conferencepageid=314
  June 22-24, 2008 – Plastics Recycling & Trade
Show, Rosemont, IL, http://plasticsrecyclingconfere
nce.com/default.asp?conferencepageid=314
  June 24-27, 2008 – The Air & Waste
Management Association's 101st Annual
Conference & Exhibition (ACE), Portland, OR
http://www.awma.org/ACE2008/
  July 11, 2008 – World Population Day, www.
unfpa.org/wpd/
  July 11-12, 2008 – Domestic Solar Water
Heating, Boone, NC, http://wind.appstate.edu/
workshops/workshops.php
  July 15-16, 2008 – Stormwater Management:
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July 30-August 1, 2008 – FLERA 2008 Annual Conference, Sarasota, FL, http://www.flera.org/conference.html

Permits and Plans, Hilton Head, SC, http://www.

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environmental-expert.com/resultEachEvent.aspx?ci

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